

## House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

### Googins Supports Efforts To Change Eminent Domain Laws



**HARTFORD-** State Representative Sonny Googins (R-Glastonbury) signed a petition this week calling for the House of Representatives to convene in special session, and take up the issue of eminent domain.

The petition, initiated by House Minority Leader Robert M. Ward (R-North Branford) has the dual purpose of instituting a moratorium against the seizure of private property by government entities for use in commercial and economic development purposes, and instituting fundamental changes in Connecticut's private property rights.

Last June the U.S. Supreme Court voted 5-4 to authorize the City of New London to seize private residences by eminent domain to allow the city to begin development of a hotel and conference center.

"If our state laws can permit the kind of private property seizure that is taking place in New London, then the law needs to be changed," said Representative Googins.

"Immediate action by the legislature is required to make certain that people in Connecticut can not lose their homes and because the town they live in thinks they can make more money off their property through a commercial use."

House Republican legislators gathered Friday in front of the Hall of the House to call for the special session. They were joined by Susette Kelo, a defendant in the Supreme Court case who will lose her home if the law is not changed.

The petition needs to be signed by a majority of legislators; 76 House members and 19 Senate members, before a special session would result.